

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US99/01182

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(6) : A61B 17/08

US CL : 606/139, 151, 153

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 606/139, 151, 153

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5,695,504 A (GIFFORD, III et al.) 09 December 1997, entire document.	1-13
X	US 5,234,447 A (KASTER et al.) 10 August 1993, entire documents.	1-13
Y,P	US 5,817,113 A (GIFFORD, III et al.) 06 October 1998, entire document.	1-13



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

* "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	* "T" later document published after the international filing date in priority date and not in connection with the application first cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
* "B" earlier document published on or after the international filing date	* "X" document of particular relevance, the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
* "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	* "Y" document of particular relevance, the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
* "P" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	
* "R" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	* "A" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search:

19 MARCH 1999

Date of mailing of the international search report

15 APR 1999

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

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